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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,568	07/22/2003	Daisuke Suzuki	Q76655	6560
23373 7590 03/21/2008				
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SUITE 800				
WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
EXAMINER				
MOON, SEOKYUN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2629				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/21/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicant's arguments filed on February 27, 2008 have been fully considered.

The Applicant [Applicant's Remark: pg 3 lines 8-10] pointed out, "*this volute spring depicted in Fig. 4 bears no relation to an elastic sheet, but rather, as depicted and described, it resembles a coiled wire*". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner respectfully submits that, in order to refer an object as a sheet, the object is not necessarily to be a plane or surface. As disclosed in Merriam-Webster dictionary, [Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sheet>], one of the plurality of definitions of the term, "*sheet*", is "*a portion of something that is thin in comparison to its length and breadth*". Since the flat volute spring is an object which is thin in comparison to its length and breadth, as clearly shown on figs. 3 and 4b of Ikehara, it would be reasonable to refer the flat volute spring as an elastic sheet.

The Applicant further pointed out that Ikehara's coupling pin 15a is not a part of the sliding key [Applicant's Remark: pg 4 lines 5-6]. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Figure 3 of Ikehara might not expressly show that the coupling pin 15a is interlocked to the operation electrode 10. However, as disclosed in column 5 lines 46-48 of Ikehara, the coupling pin 15a is engaged with the center of the operation electrode. Since the coupling pin is involved in the sliding movement of the operation electrode 10 and, without the coupling pin 15a, the operation electrode would not function as a sliding key, it would be reasonable to refer a combination of the operation electrode 10 and the coupling pin 15a as a sliding key.

With respect to the Applicant's arguments regarding obviousness of combining separated parts to make a single part, the Examiner respectfully submits that the Examiner merely provided the court case to respectfully advise the Applicant that referring a combination of two parts as a single part would be

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art and wouldn't be a patentable subject matter. Furthermore, the Examiner respectfully submits that the Examiner did not provide/use the court case as a basis of the Examiner's rejection made in the previous Office Action.

Accordingly, the Examiner respectfully submits that the Applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEOKYUN MOON whose telephone number is (571)272-5552. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

March 14, 2008
/Seokyun Moon/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629